6741.US.O1

AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 12-14 and 16.

Please amend the subject application as follows:

CLAIMS AS AMENDED:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of determining [[the]] an *initial dose* of a *vitamin D compound* for the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism and renal osteodystrophy without increasing the incidence of hypercalcemia comprising:

a) measuring a patient *baseline PTH* (bPTH) value,

b) determining a *final dose* of the vitamin D compound, where the final dose is that dose associated with a first stable clinically significant reduction in patient intact parathyroid hormone (PTH) for the vitamin D compound,

c) Applying the *baseline PTH* value of step a and the *final dose* of step b to regression analysis, and

d) calculating the *initial dose* of the *vitamin D compound* from the regression analysis of step c.

2. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the regression analysis is a zero intercept linear model.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the vitamin D compound is a vitamin D_2 compound.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3 wherein the vitamin D_2 compound is paricalcitol.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4 wherein the initial dose is patient baseline PTH/80 (bPTH/80).

6. (Currently Amended) A method of treating secondary hyperparathyroidism and renal dystrophy using a vitamin D compound without increasing the incidence of hypercalcemia comprising

a) measuring a patient baseline PTH value;

b) determining a final dose of the vitamin D compound associated with a first stable clinically significant reduction in patient PTH for the vitamin D compound;

c) applying the baseline PTH and final dose to regression analysis;

d) calculating [[the]] an initial dose of the vitamin D compound from the regression analysis of step c; and

e) administering the initial dose determined in step d to the patient.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of treating elevated intact parathyroid hormone (PTH) in a patient commencing treatment for end stage renal disease, the method comprising:

a) determining [[the]] an initial dose of a vitamin D compound from a regression analysis based on a patient baseline PTH (bPTH) and a final dose of the vitamin D compound associated with a first stable and clinically significant reduction in patient PTH for the vitamin D compound, and

b) administering the initial dose of the vitamin D compound determined in step a to the patient.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the vitamin D compound is paricalcitol.

9. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the initial dose is about patient baseline parathyroid hormone/80 (bPTH/80).

10. (Previously Amended) A method of treating a patient for end stage renal disease using a vitamin D therapy, comprising administering an initial dose of vitamin D to the patient wherein the initial dose of vitamin D is about patient baseline parathyroid hormone/80 (bPTH/80) and bPTH is the baseline PTH for the patient.

11. (Previously Amended) A method of treating a patient for secondary hyperparathyroidism using a vitamin D therapy, comprising administering an initial dose of vitamin D to the patient wherein the initial dose of vitamin D is about patient baseline parathyroid hormone/80 (bPTH/80) and bPTH is the baseline PTH for the patient.

12. (CANCELLED)

13. (CANCELLED)

14. (CANCELLED)

15. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) [[A]] The method of claim 8 wherein the initial dose is at least 1 mcg.

16. (CANCELLED)